

between the two governments. This suggestion was renewed by Mr. Treacot, acting Secretary of State, on the 18th of August, 1860, in a note to Mr. Irvine, Chargé d'Affaires *ad interim* of Great Britain, and that government proposed that the question should be left to the arbitration of one of the three following European powers, namely: Belgium, Denmark, or the Swiss republic. This proposition was made in the note from Lord Lyons of the 10th of December, 1860, to General Cass, and no reply or counter proposition has been made to it.

During the late civil war it was not deemed advisable to pursue the negotiation upon the subject, and the questions between the United States and Great Britain arising out of that war have hitherto been so engrossing that it has not been convenient to bestow attention upon others. It is hoped, however, that a suitable juncture for that purpose will soon occur, and that the point at issue may be amicably adjusted to the mutual satisfaction of the parties.

The accompanying papers, maps, and cross section will, it is believed, present to Congress the merits of the question, and the grounds upon which the executive department of this government has claimed that the island of San Juan and the other islands of the Haro Archipelago are within our boundaries as defined by the treaty.

With reference to the question of joint occupation of the island of San Juan by military forces of the United States and Great Britain, it will be seen from the accompanying papers which relate to that subject that the arrangement was made during the administration of James Buchanan, with a view to avert collisions between the settlers or the military forces of the respective countries, such collisions being supposed to be imminent in 1859. The arrangement, however, is temporary in its character, and was made upon condition that no prejudice to the claim of either government should result therefrom.

Respectfully submitted :

WILLIAM H. SEWARD.

The PRESIDENT.

*List of papers accompanying the report of the Secretary of State on the northwest boundary controversy relating to San Juan Island.*

1. Mr. Seward to Mr. Campbell, December 21, 1867.
2. Mr. Campbell to Mr. Seward, January 22, 1868, with accompaniments, namely :
  - I. Discussion of the water boundary question, with maps.
  - II. Correspondence relating to the powers of the commissioners.
  - III. Military occupation of San Juan island.
  - IV. Geographical memoir, with map, and cross-sections of the channel.
3. Senate executive document No. 10, 36th Congress, 1st session.
4. Lord Lyons to Mr. Cass, May 12, 1859.
5. Lord Russell to Lord Lyons, August 24, 1859.
6. Lord Lyons to Mr. Cass, September 3, 1859.
7. Lord Lyons to Mr. Cass, September 7, 1859.
8. Mr. Cass to Lord Lyons, September 8, 1859.
9. Lord Lyons to Mr. Cass, September 9, 1859.
10. Mr. Cass to Mr. Dallas, (with an accompaniment,) September 22, 1859.
11. Lord Lyons to Mr. Cass, October 1, 1859.
12. Lord Lyons to Mr. Cass, October 10, 1859.
13. Lord Lyons to Mr. Cass, October 15, 1859.
14. Mr. Cass to Lord Lyons, (with an accompaniment,) October 22, 1859.
15. Mr. Cass to Mr. Dallas, October 20, 1859.
16. Lord Lyons to Mr. Cass, October 24, 1859.
17. Mr. Cass to Mr. Dallas, October 24, 1859.
18. Lord Russell to Lord Lyons, November 29, 1859.